

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Miyahara, U.S. Patent No. 6,404,466. Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0,555,100 to Ishiguro et al., in view of Kobayashi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,847,792. Claims 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishiguro et al., in view of Kobayashi et al., and further in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art.

Claim 10 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 10 has been so rewritten.

Applicant hereby acknowledges the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance. Applicant respectfully notes that there may be additional reasons for allowance that have not been specifically cited, and which may apply to various of the allowed claims, in addition to or instead of the cited Reasons. Applicant respectfully suggests that notwithstanding the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance, it is believed that each of the allowed claims is patentable in its own right and/or for other reasons raised during the prosecution and/or explained in the specification of this application.

To the extent that any statements regarding patentability of any claims allowed by the Examiner made by the Applicant or the Examiner in any document filed in this application are inconsistent with or not included in the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance, they are incorporated by reference herein.

Claims 1-9 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, to place the application in condition for allowance, but Applicant reserves the right to file continuing application(s) including claims 1-9.

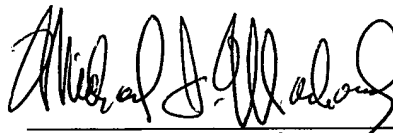
CLOSING

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that independent claim 10 is in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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